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Bulletin
OF THE
National Tuberculosis Association

Vol. IX JULY, 1923 No. 7

The Nineteenth Annual Meeting in Retrospect

By Philip P. Jacobs, Ph.D.

Looking back at the nineteenth annual meeting of the National Tuberculosis Association, recently closed at Santa Barbara, among the impressions which stand out most clearly are, first of all, the determination of all those present to make the tuberculosis movement a bigger factor in the improvement of public health than ever before, conserving and forwarding the gains already made; secondly, a recognition clearly emphasized in a number of different ways that the conscious work of the national, state and local tuberculosis association has been productive of results in life saving and would, and can be, productive of greater results in the future. The delightful setting of Santa Barbara, the splendid hospitality of our California hosts, and the good fellowship of those in attendance at the meeting, are among other impressions that will last for a long time.

It would take more than the space allowed for an ordinary article to attempt to recount all of the interesting features of the programs of the various sections. The most that can be done in this brief space is to tell of a few of the interesting features.

Dr. Brown Makes Plea for Research

Dr. Lawrason Brown's presidential address struck a sympathetic chord when he reminded us that one of the greatest needs of the campaign against tuberculosis, is more extensive research for the purpose of securing a positive cure for the disease. "The long search and the scantiness of financial reward have discouraged many brilliant scientists from entering the tuberculosis field. A complete eradication of tuberculosis must follow along one of two lines. First, by vaccination or by some other method of treatment which is as successful as the administering of quinine in malaria must be discovered. Another possibility is that pulmonary tuberculosis, like leprosy and typhus, will gradually recede until in countries with a high hygienic civilization it will be of slight importance. At the present time public education in disease prevention, increased sanitorium facilities, and adequate after-care in order to prevent a relapse, are the best available means of still further reducing the mortality and case rates."

Campaign Accelerated Reduction in Death Rate

In the report of the executive office, read by Dr. Linsly R. Williams, Managing Director, and more particularly in the first session of the Sociological Section abundant evidence was presented to show not only that the death rate from tuberculosis has declined in a remarkable way during the last twenty years, but also that the reasons for the decline are to be found primarily in the work of the anti-tuberculosis campaign. To Dr. Louis I. Dublin belongs the credit for correctly demonstrating that the anti-tuberculosis campaign may justly say that it has accelerated the decline in the death rate. Dr. Dublin clearly pointed out that the constitutional school of thinkers, as represented by Raymond Pearl, are not basing their conclusions on sound hypotheses when they say that the decline in the death rate is due to perfectly normal causes, entirely beyond control of ordinary human activities. Dr. Dublin also pointed out that the educational, institutional case finding and general campaign for building resistance and preventing infection had contributed in no small measure to the cut in the death rate. Dr. Williams and Dr. Haven Emerson also stated that the recent studies of Dr. Charles Henderson Smith in one of the most congested districts of New York would seem to indicate that there is not only a decline in mortality and also in morbidity from tuberculosis, but a decline in infection as well. Dr. Smith's figures show that the evidence of infection in young children is very much less pronounced in the group which he studied than in the group studied in many large European cities.

Methods of Tuberculosis Treatment

In the Clinical Section much attention was given to methods of treatment that have been helpful in arresting tuberculous diseases. Artificial pneumothorax was discussed directly or indirectly in eight or ten different papers. The evidence presented clearly indicated that this method of treatment has been proven of value, not only in moderately advanced, but in relatively far advanced cases. Dr. W. D. Sansum, of the Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital also contributed an interesting feature of the meeting when he pointed out that tuberculosis patients suffering with diabetes have been successfully treated by the use of insulin coupled with the ordinary hygienic and dietetic treatment. The significance of Dr. Sansum's work will be found in a great many centers, particularly where there is a prevalence of diabetes in combination with tuberculosis.

The results of sanatorium treatment were also carefully scrutinized in several different ways, both in the American Sanatorium Association, which met the day before the opening of the National Association meeting proper and in the Clinical and Sociological Sections. There seemed to be a certain difference of opinion as to the possible value of the sanatorium. Some of those present felt that the sanatorium's biggest work could be accomplished when used as educational institutions. Others, sharply opposed, feeling that its chief function was to keep patients until well or restored to working efficiency. Dr. Dublin made an interesting contribution in this respect, when he pointed out that the actual saving of lives brought about by sanatorium treatment during the last fifteen years, which had in many instances doubled the expectancy of life by tuberculosis patients, had a very decided effect upon the reduction in tuberculosis mortality. The follow-up of sanatorium patients was also a subject of considerable discussion. The Association adopted a formal resolution for a continuation of the follow-up study made by Miss Whitney, statistician, begun about two years ago. In general, the sanatorium, in spite of the criticism levied against it, seemed to come out of the discussion with its usefulness clearly indicated and with its field of activity considerably enlarged.

Among the nurses present at the

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The Nineteenth Annual Meeting in Retrospect

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meeting, of which there were a very considerable number, the keenest discussion was aroused on the subject of training of pupil nurses. Miss Grace Holmes, of Portland, Oregon, startled those present by pointing out that less than 10% of the pupil nurses of this country who are graduating every year get any knowledge at all of the care of the tuberculosis patients during their two or three years of training.

New Directors

As to the business of the conference, the following directors were elected at the opening session:

Representative Directors: Dr. John W. Flinn, Arizona; Dr. W. Jarvis Barlow, California; Dr. Ethan Allen Gray, Chicago; Dr. Stephen J. Maher, Connecticut; Dr. T. Z. Cason, Florida; Dr. William F. Smith, Idaho; Dr. F. E. Sampson, Iowa; Dr. A. T. McCormack, Kentucky; Dr. Martin F. Sloan, Maryland; Dr. J. H. Kellogg, Michigan; Dr. Henry Boswell, Mississippi; Mr. H. R. Cunningham, Montana; Mrs. John M. Fulton, Nevada; Dr. S. B. English, New Jersey; Dr. James Alexander Miller, New York; Dr. J. Grassick, North Dakota; Dr. R. H. Bishop, Jr., Ohio; Dr. Ray W. Matson, Oregon; Mr. Edward A. Wood, Pittsburgh; Rev. F. W. Gregg, South Carolina; Dr. Herbert Acuff, Tennessee; Mr. James H. Wallis, Utah; Dr. E. J. Rogers, Vermont; Dr. C. H. Barksdale, West Virginia; Dr. J. D. Shingle, Wyoming; Dr. Le Roy Peters, New Mexico.

Directors at Large: Mr. Wallace S. Allis, Connecticut; Mr. William G. Irwin, Indiana; Mrs. F. E. Whitley, Iowa; Mr. Henry S. Dennison, Massachusetts; Miss Gertrude Vaile, Colorado; Mr. Homer Folks, New York; Miss Lilla C. Wheeler, New York; Mr. Fred M. Stein, New York; Mr. Theo. S. Huntington, Ohio; Mr. Sherman C. Kingsley, Pennsylvania; Mr. Mathew Woll, Illinois; Dr. John H. Peck, Iowa; Dr. Ralph C. Matson, Oregon; Dr. Hoyt E. Dearholt, Wisconsin; Dr. A. M. Forster, Colorado; Dr. David R. Lyman, Connecticut; Dr. Max Biesenthal, Illinois; Dr. James A. Britton, Illinois; Dr. William DeKleine, Michigan; Dr. Lawrason Brown, New York; Dr. Charles Stover, New York; Dr. A. C. Bachmeyer, Ohio; Dr. Robinson Bosworth; Minnesota; Dr. Paul A. Lewis, New Jersey.

The following officers of the Association were elected by the Board:

President: Dr. Livingston Farrand, President Cornell University.

Vice-Presidents: Dr. W. Jarvis Barlow, Los Angeles, and Dr. Charles J. Hatfield, Philadelphia.

Honorary Vice-Presidents: Hon. Warren G. Harding and Col. Geo. E. Bushnell.

Secretary: Dr. George M. Kober, Washington, D. C.

Treasurer: Mr. Henry B. Platt, New York.

Executive Committee: Dr. James Alexander Miller, New York; Dr. David R. Lyman, Wallingford, Conn.; Dr. J. W. Pettit, Ottawa, Ill.; Dr. C. C. Browning, Los Angeles; Dr. A. M. Forster, Colorado Springs, and Mr. John A. Kingsbury, New York, Dr. Hoyt E. Dearholt, Milwaukee, Wis.

The National Conference of Tuberculosis Secretaries, which has existed for several years as an auxiliary of the Tuberculosis Association, was reorganized, and its membership limited to executive secretaries of state and local tuberculosis associations and heads of service of the National Tuberculosis Association. An Executive Committee of seven, consisting of three state, three local and one national representative was elected. The committee is comprised of the following: Dr. Robert G. Paterson, Columbus, Ohio; Mrs. Sadie Orr-Dunbar, Portland, Ore.; Mr. A. M. Dewees, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mr. Hugo Brown, Buffalo, N. Y.; Miss Sidney Maguire, Los Angeles, Cal. This committee elected the following officers: Dr. Paterson, President; Miss Meyers, Vice-President, and Mrs. Dunbar, Secretary and Treasurer.

Memphis was selected as the next place of meeting, the meeting to be held during the latter part of April, or early part of May, 1924. Section Chairman will be selected in the near future by the executive committee.

A POSTER FROM THE SERIES OF FIVE NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED BY THE NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION

Modern Health Crusade
DEPARTMENT

Athletic Badge Tests and the Round Table

The athletic badge tests which are one of the qualifications for a seat at the round table of the Modern Health Crusade, have been given wide circulation by the Playground and Recreation Association of America. They are tests of physical efficiency, and their use in schools, on playgrounds and in camps means physically fit boys and girls throughout the nation.

The tests are arranged in three series, each more difficult than its predecessor. After passing the first test, the boy and girl have before them the higher goal of succeeding in the second and third more difficult tests, and are inspired to so train themselves that they may qualify.

Up to 1921, over 13,000 boys and girls had won badges. Many more had taken the tests. In 1922 the tests were revised by a committee of experts and now include a wider choice of events than formerly. They have the merit of being so simple that they can be conducted anywhere, in an isolated country district as well as in a city. Sample copies may be secured by writing the national headquarters of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, at 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City. Artistic bronze badges for those who pass the test are supplied at low cost. Membership in the round table of the Crusade is steadily increasing. A Crusader secures a "seat" by earning 100 or more points out of a possible 300. In addition to the athletic badge tests, qualifications include the obtaining of a mark of 85% or more in the school hygiene course, having a weight approximating or reaching the standard for height and age, passing the tests for correct posture standardized by the American Posture League, passing physical examinations described in detail in the Crusade manual, passing the examination required for Certificate of First Aid isued by the American Red Cross, passing the tests in swimming required by the American Red Cross for Junior Life-Saving Crews, Boy Scout, Girl Scout and Camp Fire Activities, and work in a community sanitation program.

In Bowling Green, Ky., recently, thirty knights were admitted to seats at the round table. In Florida new members admitted this year brings the total for that state up to two hundred and seventy-five. Other localities represented at the round table are Des Moines, Ia., Grand Rapids, Mich., Washington, D. C., and New York City.

"The Jester" Makes His Bow

"The Jester" is the name that has been adopted for the occasional Crusade story service recently instituted by the National Association. Orders totaling fifteen hundred have been received from state associations for copies of these human interest stories. It is planned to issue "The Jester" three or four times a year, depending largely upon the amount of material sent in to the National office from state and local associations, nurses and teachers carrying on Crusade work. The second issue of this service was distributed the latter part of June. Organizations and individuals desiring copies should write to their state tuberculosis association requesting to be put on the mailing list.

Radio Carries Crusade Messages

The talk on "Health Armor" broadcasted by Mr. DeForest from the radio station of the Chicago Board of Trade, May 17th, was heard from Los Angeles, Cal., to Portland, Me. Under the systematic cooperation of 48 state tuberculosis associations with the National Association, and with the hearty support of the newspapers, the owners of radio stations everywhere in the United States learned of the all-state test. The number of newspaper clippings which have come in to the National Association indicate that the anti-tuberculosis movement, and the Modern Health Crusade in particular, received wider mention in the press than ever before. The National Association is indebted to the Chicago Tuberculosis Institute for making the arrangements with the Chicago Board of Trade.

At the invitation of the St. Louis Post Dispatch, Mr. DeForest broadcasted a talk on the evening of June 13th on how the Modern Health Crusade has promoted national health.

Chivalry "Carries on"

The spirit of chivalry keeps steady pace with the growth of the Crusade, to judge from the monthly Crusade bulletins issued by a number of state and local tuberculosis associations. Such titles as "The Crusade Lance" of the Detroit Society, "Health Crusade Shield" of the St. Louis Society, "The Pennant" of the Oklahoma City Society, "Crusade Tidings" of the Texas Public Health Association, "Crusade Lance and Shield" of the Oregon Association, "The Clarion" of the South Carolina Association, and the "Bulletin of the Massachusetts Legion of Modern Health Crusaders" of the Massachusetts League, emphasize the chivalric atmosphere of the Crusade and appeal to the imagination of the children. Most of these periodicals are multigraphed, with an attractive printed cover in pink, orange or yellow. Stories, games, rhymes by Crusaders, and news of interest and help to teachers are published in these little papers and the results show in improved Crusade morale and a keener interest in class competitions of all kinds.

Contributions from Crusaders are encouraged in all of these news carriers. As they are sent to all teachers in the territory served by the associations, they offer an excellent opportunity to Crusade directors to deliver health talks on a variety of subjects to many teachers who cannot be reached in any other way. "Human interest" stories are also included in these bulletins.

Crusade Play

"Health Fairies," a dramatic presentation of the Modern Health Crusade, is a recent addition to the list of health plays available for schoolroom use. It was prepared by Miss Claire McCarthy, Crusade Director of the Richmond (Va.) Tuberculosis Association and has been performed a number of times by several groups of Richmond Crusaders. It is very simple to produce, as costumes and scenery call for no elaboration. It can be easily adapted for use by a large or small number of characters. This play is particularly recommended for presentation before Parent-Teacher Associations or similar groups as an excellent introduction to the Crusade.

Mimeographed copies may be obtained by writing to the Richmond Tuberculosis Association, 1113 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

Crusaders in Boys' Week

During Chicago's Boys' Week, held in May, the Chicago Tuberculosis Institute prepared a unit of Modern Health Crusaders to take part in the parade. The boys carried banners illustrating various health activities such as swatting flies, brushing teeth, bathing, and so on. Each of the six health elements, water, fresh air, exercise, rest, food and sunshine, were represented by a different color. Brilliant colored circular signs, mounted on sticks and bearing the name of the element which they represented, was the feature of the Crusade contingent.

The Tuberculosis Institute is using the same color scheme in all of its health exhibits wherever possible, as they add brilliancy to the exhibits and furnish a new educational note for health work with children.

Open Air School Trophy

What is probably the first idealization of open-air schools in art is the design of a bronze plaque offered by the Michigan Tuberculosis Association to local tuberculosis societies for excellence in the Christmas seal sale.

The trophy is a gift to the Michigan organization from Frank B. Leland of Detroit, who established the first open-air school in Michigan.

The trophy will be awarded annually to the Michigan local tuberculosis organization making the greatest increase in per capita sale of seals over the previous year's record. This year the plaque will go to Midland county, which made an increase of 1.54 cents per capita.

Iowa Passes Nineteen Health Bills

Nineteen health bills supported by health workers were passed during the last session by the Iowa State Legislature. Only one bill which had the endorsement of health workers was not passed, and not a single bill opposed by them succeeded in going through.

Among the bills that were passed are the following: Physical education and health training in schools, a bill written by T. J. Edmonds, Executive Secretary of the Iowa Tuberculosis Association; Maternity and infant hygiene (Sheppard-Towner); Playgrounds; Social Hygiene; Vocational Training; Additional powers for local boards of health.

Abstracts of Papers

Abstracts of several of the papers read at the Annual Meeting of the National Association in Santa Barbara are available and will be furnished on request. Please enclose five cents for postage and mailing. The abstracts cover the leading papers in all of the sections.

Flies as Advertising Agents

That flies might stimulate the purchase of newspaper advertising space and incidentally help the anti-tuberculosis campaign, was a suggestion recently made by an editor to a representative of the Texas Public Health Association. The spring months are opportune for advertising solicitors to sell space to grocers, butchers, bakers, carpenters, hardware men, and lumber yards. A dealer handling foodstuffs, for example, may advertise that his shop is carefully screened from flies in order to guard his customers against disease. Carpenters and hardware dealers can stress the danger from flies and advise that every householder screen his doors, windows and porch.

A similar suggestion made to your local editors might prove a practical way to strengthen the cooperation between the press and your organization.

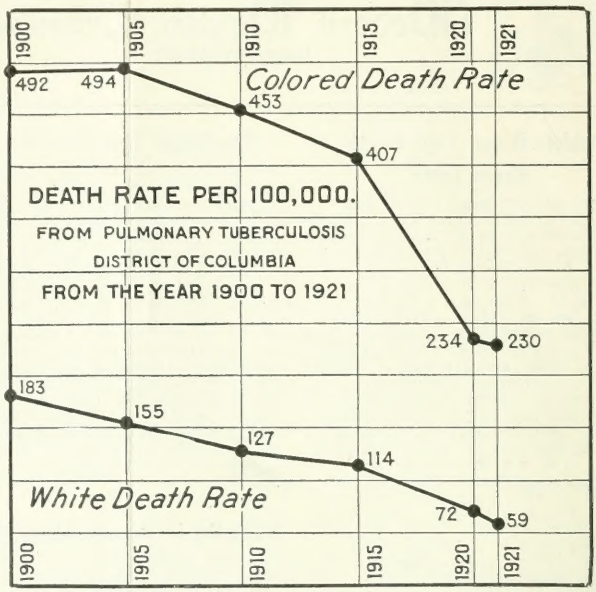

CHART SHOWING THE REDUCTION IN THE TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE IN WASHINGTON

New Administrative Secretary for N. H. C.

James A. Tobey, Washington Representative of the National Health Council for the last two years, has been appointed Administrative Secretary of the Council with headquarters at New York City. He will succeed Walter Clarke, who has resigned to study medicine during the next five years in Europe. Mr. Tobey is a graduate in sanitary engineering and public health of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1916 and of law from the Washington Law School in 1922. He has served as health officer of Summit and West Orange, N. J., as representative of the New Jersey State Department of Health, scientific assistant with the United States Public Health Service, and during the war was first lieutenant in the U. S. Army Sanitary Corps. He has also been connected with the sanitary service of the American Red Cross. Besides his duties with the National Health Council, Mr. Tobey has been associate editor of the American Journal of Public Health for several years and is now president of the Washington alumni of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He will take up his new duties in New York on June 1, 1923.

Tuberculosis Course for Physicians and Nurses

The Veterans' School for Tuberculosis at New Haven, Conn., will be repeated in September, 1923. A tuberculosis school for nurses, arranged by Miss Mary Hickey, Superintendent of Nurses of the Veterans' Bureau, and under the supervision of Miss Alice E. Stewart of the Anti-Tuberculosis League and Hospital of Pittsburgh, will be conducted at the same time.

The first month of the physicians' course will be devoted to theory, and the second to practice, with the use of the Veterans' Hospital for clinic material. Among the instructors will be such specialists in tuberculosis as Dr. Thomas McCrea, Philadelphia; Dr. Kennon Dunham, Cincinnati; Dr. William Snow Miller, Dr. David R. Lyman and Dr. Charles M. Montgomery.

The nurses' course will be divided in two parts similar to the course for physicians. Thirty institutional and district medical service nurses from the east have already enrolled for post-graduate work in the school. It is hoped that in the near future western nurses may be given a similar opportunity for special tuberculosis training by the Fitzsimmons Hospital in Denver.